

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 432  
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Elizabeth Shelly, first place winner in the Thinkquest international competition.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly honor those individuals who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment have achieved excellence in their activities and academic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Shelly is one such outstanding individual who recently distinguished herself as a first place winner in the Thinkquest international competition, a competition in which participants create an interesting and educational site on the World Wide Web, thereby utilizing the Internet as a communications medium; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shelly and her teammates were awarded the top prize for their unique World Wide Web site, Mission to Mars, a site which simulates planning and conducting a robotic mission to the Red Planet to search for life; and

WHEREAS, the creative team's site allows users to enter and graduate from the Mars Academy, where they learn about the formation of Mars, then plan the robotic mission complete with all necessary tools, and finally establish a launch site and a launch date; en route to Mars, users receive historical and scientific information about Mars and other missions to the planet; during the mission users receive periodic updates on mission progress and solve any problems that arise; and

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WHEREAS, the originality and quality of the team's entry was specially recognized as the Mission to Mars site was one of 1,400 entries from more than 40 countries around the world and was the only entry from the southeastern United States to make the finals; and

WHEREAS, demonstrative of her intellectual prowess and inner drive, Ms. Shelly has received numerous academic awards and accolades in addition to her recent Thinkquest award; a 1997 graduate of Craigmont High School, Ms. Shelly was selected as a senior with distinction, represented her class as Legend Queen, was selected Editor-in-Chief of the Legend yearbook, was featured in Who's Who Among American High School Students each year, and was awarded the Navy ROTC scholarship for the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, Ms. Shelly was chosen to participate in the Governor's School of the Arts, and in 1996, she won the Senator Kyle essay contest; Ms. Shelly represented her high school on the Knowledge Bowl team, winning second place in the Mid-South competition, and, in 1997, was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Memphis as a result of being chosen a Cecil C. Humphrey scholar; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shelly has devoted herself to a number of worthy activities in high school; she served in the school's Ambassador Corps, was President of Interact, was Secretary of Mu Alpha Theta, and was invited to be on the Rhodes College Model United Nations team; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her numerous activities, Ms. Shelly found time to work as an Intern with Craigmont Planetarium for two years, where she met other members of her winning Thinkquest team; as a Planetarium Intern, she published articles in a bi-monthly newsletter and authored portions of two original planetarium star shows; and

WHEREAS, through Ms. Shelly's untiring commitment of time and talent, she has achieved extraordinary success in her activities and academic endeavors, and she has joined the ranks of the elite students of Tennessee and our nation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shelly's noteworthy achievements are a great source of pride for her parents, her alma mater, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Shelly's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Elizabeth Shelly upon her most recent award, first place in the Thinkquest international competition, and wish her much success in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Ms. Shelly with this final clause omitted from such copy.